

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

June 7, 2006

On any given day in Los Angeles County, thousands of parents entrust their young children to various child care settings before proceeding to work, school, training or other activity. We know that these parents want what is best for their children. We know that that the quality of care which young children receive in their earliest years impacts their brain development, with life long implications for cognitive and emotional functioning. We also know that the quality of child care and development services in Los Angeles County – as in other parts of California and the country – ranges from stellar to harmful.

In response to these issues, the Policy Roundtable for Child Care has developed quality rating systems for family child care homes and child care centers serving children from birth through five years of age. These systems could provide parents with clear and concise information with which to compare child care options, as well as benchmarks to determine if the quality of local child care services is improving over time. Further, a public rating system could provide an incentive to child care operators to enhance the quality of their care.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

BURKE \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

While child care quality rating systems are currently in place in eleven states, efforts to launch a statewide system to California have been stymied. I believe that it is time for the County of Los Angeles to provide leadership in the area of child care program quality. We have a unique investment in the success of families who are receiving services as a result of their involvement with the Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Public Social Services and Probation Department.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT the Board of Supervisors request the Policy Roundtable for Child Care to: Report back in 60 days with a detailed implementation plan to launch the child care program quality rating system in Los Angeles County, including:

1. Rating instruments and procedures.
2. Potential partners, including but not limited to the Department of Children and Family Services and Department of Public Social Services.
3. Budget information for staffing and operations, and
4. Potential resources to launch, sustain, and evaluate the impact of the child care program quality rating system.

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